

28. The instrument of Claim 27 wherein the one or more reaction vessels has a clear or translucent cap.

B1 29. The instrument of Claim 28 wherein the optical system comprises one or more fiber optic leads effective to optically couple the optical system and the clear or translucent cap(s) of the one or more reaction vessels. --

Remarks

The Invention

The present claimed invention provides instruments for the detection of target nucleic acids in a sample. The present invention is suitable for monitoring changes in fluorescence during a nucleic acid amplification reaction.

Prosecution History

Applicant notes that the parent application, U.S. Serial No. 07/695,201, is now in interference, No. 103,489, with Mitoma application, U.S. Serial No. 08/169,752. In view of the fact that the parent application is in interference, this amendment, is being served on the party Mitoma by mailing both the present amendment via first-class mail, postage paid, addressed to their attorney of record whose address is:

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The present continuation application serves to explicitly protect the Applicant's novel instruments provided for practicing the disclosed methods and exemplified processes.

Amendments to the Claims

The present continuation application has been amended to claim particular commercial embodiments of the Applicant's invention. Support for the additional claims is found throughout the specification.

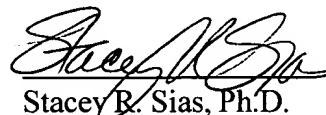
The additional claims are fully supported by the specification as originally filed and do not add new matter. Applicant requests the Examiner to enter the claims.

Conclusion

The Examiner has previously determined the disclosed methods are novel and non-obvious. The present claims analogously relate to novel and non-obvious instruments for practicing Applicant's methods. Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the instrument claims presented herein.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment any of fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-2525.

Respectfully submitted,



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